

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL
MINUTES**

March 16, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph E. Jozefczyk, Braddock District
Michael Champness, Dranesville District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District
Lula Bauer, Lee District
Steve Saulnier, Alternate, Lee District
Barbara R. Lowrey, Mason District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
David Lacey, Sully District
Elizabeth T. Bradsher, Member-At-Large
Jerry Carter, Town of Herndon
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Rob Hahne, Fairfax County Baseball Council
Robert L. Panek, Fairfax County Girls' Fast Pitch Softball
Mark Meana, Fairfax County Football Board of Commissioners
Tricia Johnson, Fairfax County Volleyball Council
Jacqueline Y. Stephens, Fairfax County Women's Sports Programs
Carl Coan, Fairfax County Adult Softball Council

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:

George Lovelace, Fairfax County Park Authority
Brian Daly, Fairfax County Park Authority
Amy Craig, Fairfax County School Board
Patricia Franckewitz, Department of Community and Recreation Services
Chris Leonard, Department of Community and Recreation Services
Karen Avvisato, Department of Community and Recreation Services
Ashlee Currie, Department of Community and Recreation Services
Jesse Ellis, Department of Community and Recreation Services

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Wesley M. Viilo, Jr., Mt. Vernon District
Roger Sims, Springfield District
Jeffrey E. Stein, Town of Clifton
J. Marcelo Gangotena, Diversity-At-Large
Tom Moore, Fairfax County Youth Basketball Council
Bill Harvey, Fairfax County Lacrosse Council
Deborah B. Honaker, Fairfax County Soccer Advisory Council

GUESTS: None

Meeting Opening –The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Stephen McLaughlin. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Citizens to Address Council – None

Presentations to Council – None

Items Presented

Presentation #1: Waiver of Fees for Military Families: Ms. Johnson discussed the possibility of providing scholarship assistance to military children of deployed parents. She would like the Council to support getting the sports organizations to waive fees for these children. As their parents are deployed, it is very important for the children to maintain consistency in their extra-curricular activities.

Presentation #2: Positive Coaching Alliance: The Positive Coaching Alliance has hired Patton-Boggs to lobby for it to get federal funding so it can partner with Fairfax County to do a pilot program and train coaches, administrators, referees, parents and youth on the concepts of positive coaching. Mr. McLaughlin accompanied employees of Patton-Boggs to meet with Congressmen Moran, Davis, and Wolf. Congressmen Davis and Moran were supportive, Congressman Wolf was not.

Mr. Meana spoke highly of Positive Coaching Alliance. His football organizations are heavily involved in the program. He endorsed the program, and he endorses CRS to manage the workshops through them.

Mr. Hahne also endorsed this program. He stated that the baseball organizations are heavily involved in this program. He believed that Positive Coaching Alliance has changed the culture of baseball and that there was a parent training component that was excellent.

Lula Bauer and Jerry Carter also endorsed the program.

Mr. McLaughlin said that a letter is expected in early April from Congress outlining whether or not we will receive funding. Mr. Hahn said he will set up a subcommittee to decide what to do in case federal funding is not approved.

Administrative Items

On motion, the Council approved the minutes from the February 16, 2005, meeting.

Committee Reports:

Field Maintenance Committee: Dave Morgan (CRS) managed the development of a comprehensive maintenance plan for all High School, Middle School, and Elementary School diamond fields. He met with community groups, High School Director of Service Activities and High School coaches to gather feedback that will be integrated into the plan. He also met with the FCPA and private turf maintenance vendors to solicit their professional opinion on the best possible maintenance plan. The plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in early April.

Gym Policy Committee: The revised gym policy will be implemented in the spring of 2005. CRS staff will work with the athletic organizations to assist them with the changes throughout this year.

Walk-On Use Committee: The committee has completed its report, and it will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in early April. The committee will present its report to the Council at the April meeting.

Sports Forum Committee: It was noted that the awards segment of the Sports Forum was very successful. However, there was not a very good turn out for the information sharing part of the Forum. Mr. Leff suggested that we reevaluate the need for doing a forum each year. The Council thinks globally about sports issues, and the organizations think locally. He believes the sports organizations are not interested in the global information. Mr. Leff also stated that he thinks we would get more out of a joint meeting of the Council, FCPA, the Board of Supervisors, and CRS combined.

A new venue would need to be found for the Character Awards.

A suggestion was made to invite teams of the award winners to the Sports Forum to support their teammates who are receiving awards. There is a need to market and advertise better and emphasize the significance of receiving such an honor.

Application Fee Committee: Mr. Leonard submitted a report that outlined a review of the adopt-a-field program, facility maintenance and development, organizations registration fees, participant stats, scholarship requests, total applications and delinquent applications, and a review, to date, of the total revenues collected.

Mr. Meana moved to have the Chairman of the Council send a letter to the Board of Supervisors outlining the Council's opposition to the fee. However, if the fee remains, then the Council moves to request that the Board of Supervisors direct the revenues collected from the Application Fee be used to support athletic facility access, improvements, and maintenance to include both indoor and outdoor county and school facilities.

The motion, seconded by Mr. Hahn, passed 16-1.

There was a significant amount of discussion about groups that are delinquent and penalties that should be applied.

A motion was made to recommend that a delinquent fee be applied to all groups delinquent in paying their application fee. Motion passed unanimously.

Information - Board of Supervisors: None

Information - Fairfax County School Board: None

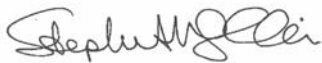
Information – Fairfax County Park Authority: It was announced that the FCPA Board approved a fee adjustment for the off-season fee for artificial turf field at E.C. Lawrence Park.

Information - Community and Recreation Services: Ms. Franckewitz, stated that CRS was in the process of finalizing the MOU between the county and FCPS. It will go to the Board of Supervisors in three weeks and to the joint board meeting in May for approval by both boards. The revised MOU will be presented to the Council in April.

New Business: Mr. McLaughlin has requested that CRS explore the possibility of getting the scholarship program information translated into Spanish. He also suggested that we notify the leagues in predominately Hispanic areas to assist them in translating their league information into Spanish. He believes there are many children out there that do not have access to the leagues because they do not speak English. CRS should evaluate and address this gap in service.

Adjournment – On motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen McLaughlin".

Stephen McLaughlin
Chairman